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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Disaster assistance briefings set for officials after February snow storms

On March 31, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal disaster aid has been made available to Delaware to help the state and communities recover from the severe winter storms that occurred in February. Briefings are scheduled in Kent and New Castle counties for potential applicants for Federal Public Assistance. The schedule of briefings for Sussex County will be announced when date and location are determined. The dates and locations for Kent and New Castle counties are as follows:

- **2 p.m., Wednesday, April 7**
Kent County Administration Building
555 Bay Road
Dover, DE 19901
- **6 p.m., Wednesday, April 7**
Kent County Administration Building
555 Bay Road
Dover, DE 19901
- **9:30 a.m., Thursday, April 8**
Paul J. Sweeney Public Safety Building
3601 North DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720
- **5:00 p.m., Thursday April 8**
Paul J. Sweeney Public Safety Building
3601 North DuPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720

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These applicants' briefings are intended for local officials concerned with repair and replacement of public infrastructure, equipment and facilities damaged during and following the snow event Feb. 5 through Feb 11. Also to be included in the informational briefings are explanation and guidance for officials and representatives of municipalities and public service agencies and some private nonprofit organizations that experienced excessive personnel time and equipment usage responding to the snow storms.

Individual property owners are not eligible for Federal Public Assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) share of potential disaster assistance for eligible and approved Delaware applicants is 75 percent of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration.

FEMA Public Assistance funding is awarded to help pay for approved and validated emergency protective measures such as police overtime, debris clearance to open vital roads and rights-of-way and removal of threats to public safety. Funds are also awarded for permanent repairs to roads, water control facilities, public buildings and public utilities. This work involves restoring infrastructure to its pre-disaster condition and can range from minor repairs to total replacement.

To be eligible for PA, project costs must exceed \$1,000, the work must be required as a result of the declared disaster, it must be located within the designated disaster area and the repair or restoration must be the responsibility of the applicant. Also, insurance must be deducted and assistance cannot be available from any other federal agency.

Examples of eligible private nonprofit facilities include some public utilities, custodial care and medical organizations and educational institutions. Eligible nonprofits must hold current federal tax-exempt status.

For information, call Delaware Emergency Management Agency, 302-659-3362.

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